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American School
of Oriental Research
in Palestine

TWELVE MORTUARY INSCRIPTIONS FROM SIDON

ON the occasion of two visits to Sidon, early in 1903, it was my fortune to see, in different localities, a number of small tombstones, or "markers," like those which appear in the accompanying cut from a photograph (Fig. 1). Many of a similar character are known, and the inscriptions of some have been published (see *e.g.* Harris, *Haverford College Studies*, X, pp. 24-26). I saw none of these stones in the original position, but learned on good authority that they were frequently found in opening the old tombs about Sidon. It appears that they served to perpetuate the memory of the new occupants of the ancient niches before which they stood. They range from 8 inches to 18 inches in height, and consist of an ovally rounded column resting on a square base. Sometimes they are in two pieces, but more usually in one solid one. The inscription is cut on the base, at times with great care and precision, but oftener in rough, rude outlines. Near the top of the column there is a simple ornamentation, like that appearing in the illustration. I saw one stone, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, that, so far as one could judge, had never been inscribed. In most cases I had opportunity only for copying and hasty measurement.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑ | |
| ΧΡΗCΤΗΚΑΙ | Πτολέμα χρηστή καὶ ἄλυπε χαῖρ(ε) |
| ΑΛΥΠΕΧΑΙΡ | ζήσασα ἔτη ξζ' |
| ΖΗCΑCΑΕΤΗ | <i>Ptolema, good and happy, farewell! having</i> |
| Ξ Ζ | <i>lived 67 years.</i> |

This stone was in two pieces, the column being $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches in circumference, and the base $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches

high, $7\frac{3}{8}$ inches broad, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The letters were regular and beautifully executed.

2. ΚΟΔΡΑΤΕ

ΧΡΗCTΕ

ΒΙΩCACK

ΑΛΩCZH

ΕΤΗ. Μ

Κόδρατε χρηστὲ βιώσας καλῶς ξή(σας)
ἔτη μ'

Codratius, good, of noble life, who lived 40 years.

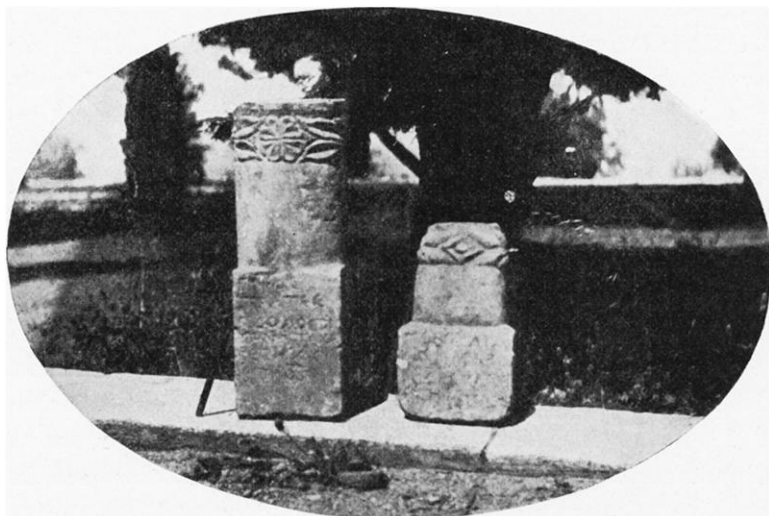


FIGURE 1. — TYPES OF TOMBSTONES FROM SIDON.

The whole stone was $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and the columnar portion $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference. The letters were somewhat irregular. It is noticeable that *βιώσας*¹ appears here along with *ξήσας*, which is the usual *terminus technicus* for stating the age.

3. ΠΤΟΛΕΜ /:

ΧΡΗCTΕ

ΧΑΙΡΕΖΗC

ΑCΕΤΗΚΗ

Πτόλεμε(?) χρηστὲ χαίρε ξήσας ἔτη κη'
Ptolemy, good friend, farewell! having lived 28
years.

This stone was 19 inches high, and the columnar portion 20 inches in circumference. Letters irregular.

¹ Cf. *D. Mitth.* 1899, p. 83, no. 5.

4. Γ Η Ι Ξ Ι Ω Ν
 Χ Ρ Η C T Ε Γηρ(?)ίων χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε χαῖρε ζήσας
 Κ Α Ι Α Ι Ξ V Π ἔτη --
 Χ Α Ι Ρ Ε Ζ Ξ Γερion, good and happy, farewell! having lived
 C A E T ΞΞ -- years.

The whole stone was only $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and the columnar portion $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches in circumference. The letters were rudely cut, and the surface so broken that the numeral could not be made out.

5. - Ο Υ --
 Φ Ι Λ Ω Ν ου(?)--φιλων χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε ζήσας
 Χ Ρ Η C T Ε ἔτ(η) νγ'
 Κ Α Ι Α Λ Υ Π Ε ---philon, good and happy, who lived 53 years.
 Ζ Η C A C Ε Τ
 Ν Γ

This stone was $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, rudely cut, and difficult to make out. The name or names I did not determine.

6. Φ Ι Λ Ω
 Ν Χ Ρ Η C
 Τ Ε Κ Α Ι Φίλων χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε χῆρε ζήσας ἔτη
 Α Λ Υ Π Ε ξέ(?)
 Χ Ε Ρ Ε Ζ Η Philo, good and happy, farewell! having lived 65(?)
 C A C Ε Τ years.
 Ζ Ε

This stone was $13\frac{7}{8}$ inches high, and the columnar part 14 inches in circumference. The letters were irregularly cut. We have here χῆρε for χαῖρε.

7. Φ Ι Λ Ω Ν
 Χ Ρ C T C Φίλων χρ(η)στὲ (καὶ) ἄλυ(πε) χῆρε --
 Α Λ Υ Philo, good and happy, farewell!
 Χ Ε Ρ
 = = =

I have no measurements for this stone. The inscription was badly defaced. So far as it could be made out, it was exactly like the preceding.

8. ΕΥΤΥΧΙΔΗ
ΧΡΗCΤΑΙΚΑΙ
ΑΛΥΠ--
Εὐτυχιδῇ χρησταὶ καὶ ἄλυπ(ε)
Eutychide, good and happy, —.

The stone was 12½ inches high, and the columnar portion 18 inches in circumference. The letters were irregular and the inscription incomplete. *χρησταὶ* for *χρηστή*.

9. ΚΟΔΡΑΤΙ
ΛΑΧΡΗCΤ
ΗΧΑΙΡΕ
Κοδρατίλα χρηστή χαίρε
Codratila, good lady (?), farewell!

The stone was 13½ inches high and the column 20½ inches in circumference. The letters were irregular. The age was not given.

10. ΡΟΥΦΙΛΛ==
ΧΡΗCΤΗΚΑ
ΑΛΥΠΧΑΙΡ
ΖΗCΑCΑΕΤΗΡ
Ῥουφίλλα(?) χρηστή κα(ὶ) ἄλυπ(ε)
χαίρ(ε) ζήσασα ἔτη ρ'
Rouphilla, good and happy, farewell! having lived 100 years.

The stone was 10 inches high, with a column 14½ inches in circumference. Letters rudely cut and hard to read.

11. ΚΑΛΛΙCΤΙΩΝ
ΧΡΗCΤΕΚΑΙ
ΑΛΥΠΕΧΑΙ
ΡΕΖΗCΑC
ΕΤΗ Π
Καλλιστίων χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε χαίρε
ζήσας ἔτη π'
Callistion, good and happy, farewell! having lived 80 years.

The stone was 13 inches high, and the base 7 inches wide. The letters were clearly cut.

12. CΤΡΑΤΩΝΧΡΗC
ΤΕΚΑΙΑΛΥΠΕΚ
ΑΙΑΩΡΕ
Στράτων χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε καὶ
ἄωρε
Straton, good and happy and untimely —

This was a tombstone which evidently came from some cemetery outside the city, and was altogether unlike the stones previously described. It was 2 feet 9 inches high, and at the base it was 8 inches thick and 1 foot 6 inches wide. Above the inscription was the figure of a small lad in high relief, standing between two columns also in relief. The figure was well executed, and called to mind the Athenian gravestones.

WARREN J. MOULTON.